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Basic programme of work of the Council

Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961 (New York, 8 August 1975)

Proposal of amendments by the Plurinational State of Bolivia to article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e)

Note by the Secretary-General

In its decision 2009/250 of 30 July 2009, the Economic and Social Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[1] decided, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention as amended, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Economic and Social Council any comments on the proposal.

The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a Depositary Notification[2] dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General is hereby communicating to the Council a note verbale dated 20 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations (see annex).

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 976, No. 14152.
[2] C.N.474.2009.TREATIES-3.

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Annex

Note verbale dated 20 January 2011 from the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to refer to the proposal by the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, communicated in Depositary Notification C.N.194.2009.TREATIES-2 of 6 April 2009, to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e) of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended by the 1972 Protocol amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (the Convention). The States parties to the Convention have been asked to pronounce themselves on the proposal, aimed at the recognition of the traditional use of coca leaf.

Sweden is fully aware of the importance of the efforts of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to reduce the production and trade in illicit coca products. Sweden also understands the concern that the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia has expressed concerning the conflict between the drug control conventions of the United Nations and the traditional chewing of coca leaf.

However, the Government of Sweden is of the opinion that the proposal poses the risk of creating a political precedent and might directly infringe on the international legal framework for the fight against drugs. This would send a negative signal that would be out of step with the actions undertaken in order to fight drug trafficking and drug use. The opening of a plenipotentiary conference to discuss these matters should also be avoided.

For the above-mentioned reasons, Sweden therefore rejects the proposed amendment, in accordance with article 47, paragraph 2, of the Convention.